

# 7<sup>th</sup> grade Career Research Paper

## Introduction Hooks, Topic Sentences, Summary Sentences & Transitions

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Read the two introductory paragraphs below. Put a star next to the paper you'd be most interested in reading.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **A.** Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a fire fighter? I have. In this essay I'm going to tell you about what I want to be when I grow up. Although I'm not an expert, I think being a firefighter would be a lot of work, but also a lot of fun. I wouldn't mind the smoke, or carrying heavy equipment. I want someone to think of me as their hero. I am most interested in pursuing a career as a firefighter because of its promising job outlook, flexible salary, and exciting training.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **B.** You are trapped in a burning building. You're all alone. You don't know what started the fire, but you know how it will end if you don't get out. As the smoke begins to enter your lungs, you see a dark glove grab you by the arm. This man has just saved your life and you don't even know his name. That's because he is a firefighter. Firefighters put their life in danger every day in order to help keep others safe. That's why I have a lot of respect for them, and want to be one when I grow up. I am most interested in pursuing a career as a firefighter because of its overall interesting overview, decent salary, and physically-challenging training.

### What **NOT** to do in your Introductory Paragraph:

**1. Avoid telling the reader that you are beginning your essay:**

"In this essay, I will discuss . . ."

"I will talk about . . ."

"I am going to prove . . ."

**2. Do not apologize in your paper:**

"Although I am not an expert . . ."

"In my humble opinion . . ."

**3. Do not refer to later parts of your essay:**

"By the end of this essay one will agree . . ."

"In the next paragraph people will see . . ."

**4. Do not make your introduction too long. 5-7 sentences is a good balance.**

This paragraph usually needs a little more than half as many sentences as your body paragraphs.

### What **TO DO** in your Introductory Paragraph:

**1. Begin with a strong "Hook" to capture your readers' attention.**

**2. Provide a little background about your career---**a basic definition of what someone in that career does for a living.

**3. Briefly explain why this topic (career) interests you.**

**4. End with your (pre-approved) thesis statement which follows the required "formula:**  
purpose + topic + subtopic1 + subtopic2 + subtopic 3.

## So, what is a Hook? (Definition)

The opening line or lines of an essay, article, or story. These lines should “hook” the reader’s attention and make him or her want to continue reading. Go fishing...catch an interested reader!

### 5 Great “Hook” Types & Ideas:

1. **Anecdote:** An anecdote is a personal story that is related to the topic of your essay. Your anecdote may be true or mostly true, but should be entirely believable. The purpose of the story is to get your reader ready for your essay, not to make them confused.

*Example: You are trapped in a burning building. You're all alone. You don't know what started the fire, but you know how it will end if you don't get out. As the smoke begins to enter your lungs, you see a dark glove grab you by the arm. This man has just saved your life and you don't even know his name. That's because he is a firefighter.*

2. **Rhetorical Question:** When writing a question, try to create a picture in the reader’s mind that relates to your topic. A rhetorical question is a statement in the form of a question. You ask the reader a rhetorical question to make a point, not to get an answer. Words like who, what, when, where, why, is, how, or are at the beginning of the sentence. **\*\*TO DO THIS WELL, AVOID USING “YOU” IN YOUR QUESTION\*\***

*Example: Who wouldn't love to wake up every morning to get paid for doing something they love? In my eyes, that's what professional athletes get to do. Professional football players ...*

3. **Quote:** When writing a quote, it can be a direct quotation from a book, TV show, movie, or a famous person.

*Example: Albert Einstein once said, “It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.” That's what I want to do for little kids—help them find their creative expression through art, and to teach them about the artists that inspired me. Art teachers ...*

4. **Startling Statistic:** Statistics show relationships with numbers. Find a surprising statistic involving your topic.

*Example: Close to 120 million people visited a United States hospital emergency room in 2013 alone; that's over 300,000 each day! If it weren't for the 2.8 million registered nurses who helped them heal, those patients may have never recovered. Last year, I was among those 120 million, and I was fortunate to have caring, knowledgeable and hard-working nurses by my side. That's why I want to help others in the same way they helped me. A career in nursing...*

5. **Dialogue:** Dialogue features two or more people talking.

*Example: “What do you want to do when you grow up, Sarah?” My family used to always ask me this when I was younger. “I want to go to the moon!” I'd say. “Well, I guess you'll have to get over your fear of flying then,” my mom would tease. But as I got older, I realized, maybe I flying to the moon wasn't for me after all; I want to be the person who sends someone else up there instead! Aeronautic engineers ...*

## YOUR TURN...

Brainstorm & experiment by writing at least 3 different types of hooks that could work for your research paper and topic. Each “hook” should be 1-2 sentences & should lead into your topic.

Type:	Your Hook:	Rating of 1-5
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		

**Trade your paper with a neighbor who will read your brainstormed hooks. Ask this neighbor to rate each of your hooks, assigning a score of 1-5 to each.**

- 1- Very Weak;** the hook was boring and uncreative; followed a lot of “What NOT to do” examples. I’m not at all interested in reading more of his/her writing.
- 2- Weak;** the hook was pretty dry and didn’t make much attempt to encourage me to want to keep reading. The writer may have used some of the “What NOT to do” examples. I’m not very interested in reading what else he/she has to say.
- 3- Satisfactory;** An attempt was made to hook my attention, but it was only slightly creative and I’m not entirely sure how it relates to his/her topic (career); I’m only slightly interested to read the rest of the paper.
- 4- Good;** the hook was clear and creative. The writer definitely made a strong attempt to excite the reader and caught my attention. I’m mostly interested in reading the rest of the paper to see what it has to say.
- 5- Great hook!** Very exciting, interesting and unique. My interest was immediately peaked and I can easily see how it’s related to the person’s topic (career). I’m very interested to read the rest of the paper.

**An effective body paragraph will BEGIN with a topic sentence that may include a transitional word and will END with a transitional summary sentence.**

What is a topic sentence?

The first sentence in a new paragraph that introduces the paragraph's main idea or focus. It should include the "buzz word" (or subtopic) mentioned in the thesis statement.



What is a summary sentence?

The last sentence in a paragraph that both restates its main idea (with "buzz words") and smoothly transitions into the main idea of the next paragraph coming up (with those "buzz words").

### **Common Transition words:**

- First, . . .
- Furthermore, . . .
- Another, . . .
- Besides, . . .
- Although, . . .
- Consequently, . . .
- Additionally, . . .
- Next, . . .
- In addition to, . . .
- Instead of, . . .
- Rather than, . . .
- Similarly, . . .
- Therefore, . . .
- On the other hand, . . .
- However, . . .
- Finally, . . .



Use transitions as signals to your readers that a change in subject, topic, thought, or idea is coming. Or else, your readers will feel as though they abruptly hit something! Smooth transitioning is best (& safest). ☺

### **Common Concluding phrases:**

- In conclusion, . . .
- As you can see, . . .
- To summarize, . . .
- It is clear that, . . .
- Obviously, . . .
- For these reasons, . . .
- As I said, . . .
- Clearly, . . .



**Recopy your introductory thesis here for quick reference:**

Intro Thesis:	
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**DIRECTIONS:** Write a topic sentence for every body paragraph of your research paper. Remember that your topic sentence should include the “buzz words” (subtopics) stated in your thesis.

<b>Body #1:</b> Introduce “Career Overview” or “Job Outlook”	
<b>Body #2:</b> Introduce “Salary”	
<b>Body #3:</b> Introduce “Education” or “Training”	

**DIRECTIONS:** Write a summary sentence for every body paragraph of your research paper. Remember that your summary sentence should include the “buzz word” related to what your paragraph just talked about, as well as transition into the next paragraph by introducing its “buzz word”.

<b>Body #1:</b> Wrap-up “career overview” or “job outlook” and transition into “salary”	
<b>Body #2:</b> Wrap up “salary” and transition into “education” or “training”	
<b>Body #3:</b> Wrap up “education” or “training”.	

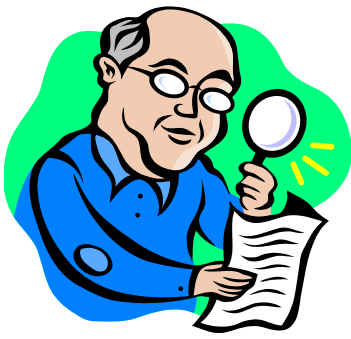
**Your conclusion paragraph needs to begin with a restated thesis.**

What does it mean to be “restated”? (Definition)

To state again, but in a different way---NOT an identical copy.

**DIRECTIONS:** Brainstorm at least 2 different ways you could restate your thesis. Remember not to rearrange the order subtopics, though. Keep “career outlook” first, then “salary”, *then* “education”.

Restated Thesis: (1 <sup>st</sup> draft)	
Restated Thesis: (2 <sup>nd</sup> draft)	



**It's your turn to**  
**Study the Model Paper**

**Directions:** Analyze the sample career research paper written by Ima Goodstudent, titled "A Career as an Athletic Trainer". Using a highlighter or editing utensil, highlight or underline all of the following that you can find in her paper:  
(Put a checkmark in the box after you've found it.)

- ☐ The hook. (What type was used? \_\_\_\_\_)
- ☐ The introductory thesis statement.
- ☐ At least 4 transition words that were used.
- ☐ The "buzz words" in the topic sentences of each body paragraph.
- ☐ The "buzz words" in the summary sentences of each body paragraph.
- ☐ The restated thesis in the conclusion paragraph.



**Also note:**

- ☐ The direct quotes (How many did Ima use?)
- ☐ The citations provided after paraphrased information (look for the parenthesis)
- ☐ Match-up each of the Works Cited page sources with a citation in the paper. You *should* be able to find a citation for every source Ima put on her Works Cited page. Did she?
  - "Collegescope." CHOICES Assessment. 17 May 2007 <www.humanesources.com>.
  - Lockard, C Brett. *Occupational Outlook Quarterly*. Athletic Trainers, 2005.
  - Meiers, Kelley. Telephone interview. 18 May 2007.
  - *National Athletic Trainers Association*. 18 May 2007 <www.nata.org>.
  - "US Department of Labor." *Occupational Outlook Handbook*. 17 May 2007.